

# Pepperdine Journal of Communication Research

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## Table of Contents and Editor's Notes

Meghan Doyle  
[meghan.doyle@pepperdine.edu](mailto:meghan.doyle@pepperdine.edu)

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*Voices of*

# **Diversity**

PEPPERDINE JOURNAL OF COMMUNICATION RESEARCH  
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## Mission Statement

The *Pepperdine Journal of Communication Research* seeks to pursue truth and academic excellence in the field of communication by recognizing outstanding student scholarship that explores interpersonal, intercultural, organizational, and rhetorical communication. Through rigorous peer-review, the annual *Journal* strives to contribute to ongoing discussion in communication studies by publishing student papers that investigate a variety of contemporary topics and issues.

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## Introduction

Pepperdine University's Communication Division is excited to present Volume 5 of its annual student-led, peer-reviewed *Pepperdine Journal of Communication Research*. Thanks to the support of faculty members and the university administration, this year's *Journal* showcases work from across the Communication Division, including original research, case studies, journalism, reflection pieces, prose and art. In keeping with the expanded call from last year's *Journal*, we found it beneficial to accept a wide range of submissions, in order to both generate momentum for the *Journal* and feature a variety of talented students, demonstrating the breadth and depth of communication as a field of study. This year's *Journal* would have been nowhere near as successful without the diligent help of 10 associate editors, who worked on tight deadlines to review and revise submissions for both content and form.

We would also like to express grateful acknowledgement to all the students who submitted pieces to be considered for publication, as the *Journal* would cease to exist without the hard and quality work of students in the division. Thank you for demonstrating the quality of research, thinking and creativity cultivated by studies in communication at Pepperdine University. As a result of the multitude of honorable submissions, we have decided to publish an online exclusive as a part of this year's *Journal*. The online exclusive contains additional student work we find to be an exemplary complement to the work featured in the print version, so we invite all readers to visit [digitalcommons.pepperdine.edu/pjcr/](http://digitalcommons.pepperdine.edu/pjcr/) for both an online copy of this volume of the *Journal* and the online exclusive content.

To remain true to this year's theme of "Voices of Diversity," we have organized this year's *Journal* in terms of the different kinds of diversity represented in the pieces submitted. Each section focuses on one aspect of diversity from multiple vantage points, lending the insight and poignancy only achieved through a multi-faceted approach. The combination of reflection pieces with survey research provides a personal touch to broader statistics, highlighting the relevance of the individual experience alongside data that the *Journal* is proud to support.

## From the Editor-in-Chief

I would like to let the *Journal* speak for itself this year.

With a record number of submissions, it is clear that students feel passionate about lending their voices to the conversation around diversity, and I am humbled to have had a hand in offering them a place to do just that.

Born out of consideration of both a national and campus conversation, the "Voices of Diversity" theme seemed a fitting way to address recent concerns related to the topic of diversity. I wanted the *Journal* to be representative of the various realms of diversity at play, recognizing that what makes people different is what makes them beautiful. In no way is this publication intended to be the only voice, nor do I believe it to be a comprehensive collection of examples of human diversity.

I do intend, however, for the *Journal* to spark conversation, to get people talking, and, most importantly, to get people to think. I believe that humans in productive conversation have the power to effect change in ways no other species can, and I hope that this year's *Journal* can act as a platform for those very conversations.

Thank you for reading, because that means you're a part of the conversation too. Speak. And listen. Participate in Voices of Diversity.

– Meghan Doyle, EIC